

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Amended claims follow:

1. (Currently Amended) A packet transmit queue control system, comprising:
  - a first data structure embodied on a tangible computer readable medium coupled to a packet controller and configured to store a plurality of first type packet pointers;
  - a second data structure embodied on a tangible computer readable medium coupled to the packet controller and configured to store a plurality of second type packet pointers, wherein the packet controller is configured to receive a first sequence of packet pointers and to provide each packet pointer to one of the first and second data structures; [[and]]
  - a third data structure embodied on a tangible computer readable medium coupled to the second data structure and configured to store a plurality of status flags; and
  - a port transmit controller coupled to the first and second data structures and configured to provide a second sequence of packet pointers;
  - wherein the first data structure includes a plurality of linked-list data structures;
  - wherein the plurality of status flags include:
    - a first type packet pointer head position indication;
    - a first type packet pointer tail position indication;
    - an overall head pointer indication; and
    - an overall tail pointer indication.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Original) The packet transmit queue control system of claim 1, wherein:
  - the second data structure includes a plurality of first-in first-out (FIFO) structures.
4. (Original) The packet transmit queue control system of claim 3, wherein:
  - each of the plurality of FIFO structures is coupled to a port.
5. (Original) The packet transmit queue control system of claim 1, wherein:

the first type packet pointers include unicast pointers; and  
the second type packet pointers include multicast pointers.

6. (Original) The packet transmit queue control system of claim 1, wherein:  
the second sequence of packet pointers includes port transmit scheduling  
information.

7. (Original) The packet transmit queue control system of claim 1, wherein:  
an ordering of the second sequence of packet pointers is substantially consistent  
with a packet arrival order.

8. (Currently Amended) The packet transmit queue control system of claim 4, wherein:  
the packet controller is configured to provide:  
each of the plurality of first type packet pointers to a selected one of the  
plurality of linked-list data structures; and  
each of the plurality of second type packet pointers to each of a group  
of the plurality of FIFO structures.

9. (Currently Amended) A data arrangement for packet transmit queue control,  
comprising:  
a first data structure embodied on a tangible computer readable medium  
configured to store a plurality of first type packet pointers;  
a second data structure embodied on a tangible computer readable medium  
configured to store a plurality of second type packet pointers; and  
a third data structure embodied on a tangible computer readable medium coupled  
to the second data structure and configured to store a plurality of status flags;  
wherein the first data structure includes a linked-list structure;  
wherein the plurality of status flags include:  
a first type packet pointer head position indication;  
a first type packet pointer tail position indication;  
an overall head pointer indication; and  
an overall tail pointer indication.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Original) The data arrangement for packet transmit queue control of claim 9, wherein:

the second data structure includes a first-in first-out (FIFO) structure.

12. (Original) The data arrangement for packet transmit queue control of claim 9, wherein:

the first type packet pointers include unicast pointers; and  
the second type packet pointers include multicast pointers.

13. (Original) The data arrangement for packet transmit queue control of claim 12, wherein:

each entry of the second data structure includes:  
a previous unicast pointer indication field;  
a next unicast pointer indication field;  
a previous unicast pointer field; and  
a packet pointer field.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) A method of inserting a packet pointer in a packet queue control system, comprising:

- (a) determining if a pointer is a first type or a second type;
- (b) if the pointer is the first type, determining if an overall tail is the first type or the second type;
  - if the overall tail is the second type, setting an overall tail flag to a first state, and setting an entry to the first state;
  - getting a first type tail;
  - linking the pointer in a first data structure to the first type tail; and

setting the first type tail to the pointer; and

(c) if the pointer is the second type, determining if the overall tail is the first type or the second type;

if the overall tail is the second type, adding the pointer to a second data structure field with a second state;

if the overall tail is the first type, adding the pointer to the second data structure field with the first state; and

setting the overall tail flag to the second state;

wherein the first data structure includes a plurality of linked-list data structures;

wherein a third data structure is coupled to the second data structure and is configured to store a plurality of status flags;

wherein the plurality of status flags include:

a first type packet pointer head position indication;

a first type packet pointer tail position indication;

an overall head pointer indication; and

an overall tail pointer indication.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) The method of inserting the packet pointer in the packet queue control system of claim 15, wherein:

the second data structure includes a first-in first-out (FIFO) data structure.

18. (Original) The method of inserting the packet pointer in the packet queue control system of claim 15, wherein:

the first type pointer includes a unicast packet pointer; and

the second type pointer includes a multicast packet pointer.

19. (Original) The method of inserting the packet pointer in the packet queue control system of claim 15, wherein:

the first state includes a yes-state; and

the second state includes a no-state.

20. (Original) The method of inserting the packet pointer in the packet queue control system of claim 15, wherein:

the first data structure is accessed at most once; and  
the second data structure is accessed at most once.

21. (Currently Amended) A means for inserting a packet pointer in a packet queue control system, comprising:

(a) means for determining if a pointer is a first type or a second type;  
(b) if the pointer is the first type, means for determining if an overall tail is the first type or the second type;

if the overall tail is the second type, a means for setting an overall tail flag to a first state, and a means for setting an entry to the first state;

a means for getting a first type tail;

a means for linking the pointer in a first data structure embodied on a tangible computer readable medium to the first type tail; and

a means for setting the first type tail to the pointer; and

(c) if the pointer is the second type, a means for determining if the overall tail is the first type or the second type;

if the overall tail is the second type, a means for adding the pointer to a field of a second data structure embodied on a tangible computer readable medium with a second state;

if the overall tail is the first type, a means for adding the pointer to a field of the second data structure with the first state; and

a means for setting the overall tail flag to the second state;

wherein the first data structure includes a plurality of linked-list data structures;

wherein a third data structure embodied on a tangible computer readable medium is coupled to the second data structure and is configured to store a plurality of status flags;

wherein the plurality of status flags include:

a first type packet pointer head position indication;

a first type packet pointer tail position indication;  
an overall head pointer indication; and  
an overall tail pointer indication.

22. (Currently Amended) A method of scheduling a packet pointer, comprising:

- (a) determining if an overall head is a first type or a second type;
- (b) if the overall head is the first type:
  - getting a first type head;
  - getting a first type pointer from a second data structure;
  - determining if the first type head matches the first type pointer;
  - if a match, setting an overall head flag to a second state; and
  - updating the first type head with a next pointer from a first data structure;

and

- (c) if the overall head is the second type:
  - getting a second type pointer from the second data structure;
  - determining if a field in the second data structure is a first state or the second state;
  - if the first state, setting the overall head flag to the first state; and
  - removing a head entry from the second data structure;

wherein the first data structure includes a plurality of linked-list data structures;

wherein a third data structure is coupled to the second data structure and is configured to store a plurality of status flags;

wherein the plurality of status flags include:

a first type packet pointer head position indication;  
a first type packet pointer tail position indication;  
an overall head pointer indication; and  
an overall tail pointer indication.

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Original) The method of scheduling the packet pointer of claim 22, wherein:

the second data structure includes a first-in first-out (FIFO) data structure.

25. (Original) The method of scheduling the packet pointer of claim 22, wherein:  
the first type pointer includes a unicast packet pointer; and  
the second type pointer includes a multicast packet pointer.
26. (Original) The method of scheduling the packet pointer of claim 22, wherein:  
the first state includes a yes-state; and  
the second state includes a no-state.
27. (Original) The method of scheduling the packet pointer of claim 22, wherein:  
the first data structure is accessed at most once; and  
the second data structure is accessed at most once.
28. (Currently Amended) A means for scheduling a packet pointer, comprising:  
(a) a means for determining if an overall head is a first type or a second type;  
(b) if the overall head is the first type:  
a means for getting a first type head;  
a means for getting a first type pointer from a second data structure;  
a means for determining if the first type head matches the first type  
pointer;  
if a match, a means for setting an overall head flag to a second state; and  
a means for updating the first type head with a next pointer from a first  
data structure; and  
(c) if the overall head is the second type:  
a means for getting a second type pointer from the second data structure;  
a means for determining if a field in the second data structure is a first  
state or the second state;  
if the first state, a means for setting the overall head flag to the first state;  
and  
a means for removing a head entry from the second data structure;  
wherein the first data structure includes a plurality of linked-list data structures;

wherein a third data structure is coupled to the second data structure and is configured to store a plurality of status flags;

wherein the plurality of status flags include:

a first type packet pointer head position indication;

a first type packet pointer tail position indication;

an overall head pointer indication; and

an overall tail pointer indication.

29. (Currently Amended) A method of managing packet pointers, comprising:

inserting a packet pointer according to the method of claim 15; and

scheduling the packet pointer comprising:

(a) determining if an overall head is a first type or a second type;

(b) if the overall head is the first type:

getting a first type head;

getting a first type pointer from a second data structure;

determining if the first type head matches the first type pointer;

if a match, setting an overall head flag to a second state; and

updating the first type head with a next pointer from the first data

structure; and

(c) if the overall head is the second type:

getting a second type pointer from the second data structure;

determining if a field in the second data structure is a first state or the

second state;

if the first state, setting the overall head flag to the first state; and

removing a head entry from the second data structure;

wherein the inserting the packet pointer and the scheduling the packet pointer include using a data arrangement for packet transmit queue control, comprising:

the first data structure configured to store a plurality of first type packet pointers;

the second data structure configured to store a plurality of second type packet pointers; and



a third data structure coupled to the second data structure and configured to store a plurality of status flags;

wherein the plurality of status flags include:

a first type packet pointer head position indication;

a first type packet pointer tail position indication;

an overall head pointer indication; and

an overall tail pointer indication.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) The method of managing packet pointers of claim 29, wherein:  
the inserting the packet pointer and the scheduling the packet pointer are operable in a system, comprising:

the first data structure coupled to a packet controller and configured to store  
[[a]]the plurality of first type packet pointers;

the second data structure coupled to the packet controller and configured to store  
[[a]]the plurality of second type packet pointers, wherein the packet controller is configured to receive a first sequence of packet pointers and to provide each packet pointer to one of the first and second data structures; and

a port transmit controller coupled to the first and second data structures and configured to provide a second sequence of packet pointers.

32. (Previously Presented) The packet transmit queue control system of claim 1, wherein:  
the port transmit controller is coupled to an output port.

33. (Previously Presented) The packet transmit queue control system of claim 4, wherein:  
each of the plurality of FIFO structures are coupled with a corresponding set of output port status flags.